

*"If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves."*

~~~~~ Carl Gustav Jung

# Grey Matters

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What a beautiful weekend. It seems that after an ugly Friday, Isabel brought us a beautiful weekend. I hope you had a chance to get out and play in the sun.

Thursday night is our 7th grade Back-To-School Night (8th grade Back-To-School night is October 8th). This is a wonderful opportunity for parents/guardians to learn about the curriculum, meet your child's teachers, and to follow a typical day's schedule. It is not, however, a time for specific questions about your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher(s) when there will be enough time to appropriately address them. For parents of our band and chorus students, the evening will begin at 6:45 PM. For all other parents, the evening will begin at 7:00 PM in your child's homeroom. 7th grade children should be bringing home a copy of YOUR schedule early this week so be on the look out.

During the first few weeks of school, there were a couple incidences of inappropriate student behavior in the halls before school that could have been avoided if the students had remained in the vicinity of their homeroom. Together with a concern that this has been an issue in the past, the RJG administration implemented a policy earlier this week requiring students to remain in the wing associated with their team between entering the building and homeroom. This policy was shared with a portion of the student body during their lunch periods. Quite soon thereafter, it became clear that not only was there disagreement regarding the policy itself, the appropriate process of communication and discussion was skipped as well. Accordingly, on Friday morning, I read the following announcement to let everyone know that they were not going to be required to stay on their own wing in the morning.

In an effort to improve safety within the building, this administration made a unilateral decision to require that all students remain in the hallway associated with their team after entering the building in the morning and before homeroom. This policy was shared with some groups of students during their lunch periods earlier this week. After further reflection, it became clear that this implementation of such a policy was premature and required further dialog with students and staff. Accordingly, there will be no change of policy. Students are not restricted to a specific area of the building prior to homeroom but are expected to behave appropriately and to arrive at homeroom on time.

The thought behind this policy had been that we could reduce inappropriate behaviors by requiring students to stay with their teams and their teachers. At the same time, there is currently not enough evidence to suggest such a blanket policy is necessary. While

created with student safety in mind, a priority for us all, a significant process was bypassed and for that we apologize.

I am confident that by working together, the staff and students of RJG can continue to maintain a safe learning community for all.

Starting in October, I will offer a monthly “Drop-in Hour” for parents who might want to stop by the office and ask questions about the school, let me know their ideas, or to simply explain to me why Red Sox fans, year after year, seriously believe they will win the pennant. The first of these Drop-in Hours will be on October 7th, from 6 – 7PM.

If you have not received all of the editions of Grey Matters or, heaven forbid, have lost one, you can now find the current and previously issued Grey Matters on our website: ([<http://www.ab.mec.edu>] [www.ab.mec.edu](http://www.ab.mec.edu)) and navigate to the RJ Grey page.

In case you missed out last year it is not too late! The A-B sweatshirts and t-shirts designed by Paul Quimby, now an 8th grader, are back! They will be on sale beginning September 25, at the 7th grade Back-To-School Night. \$25 for a warm hooded sweatshirt, \$10 for a t-shirt.

Craig Hardimon  
Principal  
R.J. Grey Jr. High  
16 Charter Rd.  
Acton, MA 01720